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Technical Meeting on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
Geneva, 20-21 July 1995
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Note by the secretariat

1. In its resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993, the General Assembly of the United Nations requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund for the Decade, and authorized him to accept and administer voluntary contributions from Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other public and private institutions for the purpose of funding projects and programmes during the Decade. Pursuant to this recommendation, the Fund has been established and awaits contributions.

2. After consultations with Governments and indigenous peoples on the Fund, consideration was given to the desire to appoint a board of trustees, including indigenous representatives, to advise the Coordinator of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and to make recommendations on the projects selected for approval by the Secretary-General. If this board of trustees was established, the following points would have to be taken into consideration:

(a) The beneficiaries of the Fund will be the organizations and communities of the indigenous peoples;

(b) The Fund will be administered by the Secretary-General, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and other provisions on this subject, and with the advice of the board of trustees, composed of five persons with relevant experience in indigenous affairs, who would provide their services on a personal and private basis;

(c) The members of the board of trustees would be appointed by the Secretary-General for a three-year term, after which they would be replaced in order to ensure maximum geographical representation for the duration of the Decade. The board would meet for one week each year;

(d) The Fund could adopt the following courses of action:

(i) Finance a part of the Programme of Activities of the Decade adopted by the General Assembly;

(ii) Support the projects submitted by the organizations and communities of indigenous peoples through the board of trustees.